

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are pending in the application, with claims 1-6, 31, 33, 34 and 36 being independent. Claims 1-6 have been amended and claims 31-52 have been added.

Claims 1-18 and 25-30 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,365,080) in view of Andra and admitted prior art.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, forming a first crystalline region by irradiating with "a laser beam" and forming a second crystalline region by irradiating with "the laser beam," such that the two regions are irradiated with the same laser beam. With respect to claim 1 and its dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Yamazaki, Andra, the admitted prior art, nor any combination of the three describes or suggests forming two crystalline regions using the same laser beam. Instead, Yamazaki, which the Examiner has cited for describing the formation of the two crystalline regions, describes forming a first crystalline region by irradiating with a first laser beam and forming a second crystalline region by irradiating with a second laser beam having a longer wavelength than the first laser beam. (See Yamazaki at col. 2, lines 20-35.) As neither Andra nor the admitted prior art would have provided motivation to modify the system of Yamazaki to use the same laser beam for both regions, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims for at least this reason.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first region of the upper surface of the semiconductor film overlaps with only a portion of the second region of the upper surface along the first direction. As such, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims because neither Yamazaki, Andra, the admitted prior art, nor any combination of the three describes or suggests forming such partially overlapping regions on the upper surface of the semiconductor film. Yamazaki, which describes using two laser annealing steps, with the first step crystallizing a relatively shallow region 5 to 100 nm deep from the surface, and the second step crystallizing a relatively deep portion 50 to 1000 nm deep (see col. 4, line 51 to col. 5, line 6), is silent as to the overlap of different regions

in a direction in which a laser moves. While the admitted prior art shows overlapping regions in Figs. 4A and 27C, the overlap is along the entirety of the first direction. Thus, in the admitted prior art, the first region overlaps with all of the second region along the first direction, rather than only a portion of the second region along the first direction.

Independent claims 2-6 similarly recite using the same laser beam to form first and second crystalline regions, and that the first region of the upper surface of the semiconductor film overlaps with only a portion of the second region of the upper surface along the first direction. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6 and their dependent claims for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 19-24 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki '080 in view of Andra, admitted prior art and Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,893,730). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Yamazaki '730 does not remedy the failure of the other references to describe or suggest the subject matter of the independent claims from which claims 19-24 depend.

Like claim 1, newly-added independent claims 31, 33, 34 and 36 recite having the first region of the upper surface of the semiconductor film overlap with only a portion of the second region of the upper surface along the first direction. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 31, 33, 34 and 36, as well as their dependent claims, are allowable for at least this reason.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Enclosed is a \$850 check (\$740 for excess claim fees \$110 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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